

From "Business Biographies" in the Farm Bureau News, Aug. 31, 1933  
The Farm Bureau News was published by the Island County Farm Bureau in Oak Harbor, WA between 1920 and 1950.

## **HARRY FAKKEMA**

About twenty years ago, when Oak Harbor was still a small town, the son of one of the earliest Dutch families to settle here, and the man who was later to own the largest garage here, was just starting in the hauling business.

At first a team and wagon was the only equipment, but as the trade grew and auto trucks became more common trucks were added to the business.

The trucking business grew, and in 1916 this Dutch boy was married to a girl of the same descent. The following year Mr. and Mrs. Fakkema purchased the Grover Allan garage and livery stable and have since added lines of merchandise and equipment and have operated their business so efficiently that today it is one of the largest enterprises in Oak Harbor.

"I really got my start on the farm," Fakkema said with a twinkle in his eye, "working on the Ed Power place. I was only seven or eight years old when we moved here and there wasn't much of a school here then--just three months a year, so I got started to work early."

Fakkema was born in Holland Michigan, in 1888. He is one of a family of seven boys, several of whom live on the Island, and three girls, two living here. He has lived and worked here most of his life and has seen many changes in automotive transportation since he has been in the garage business.

At his garage he has handled Buick and Dodge lines, and took the Ford agency in 1926. Electrical supplies, radios and refrigerators have been added. The garage where he is located has been rebuilt and enlarged several times to meet the demands of his business and the present building is about two years old.

Fakkema believes that the recent "hard times" put business to a test that showed whether it was really economically sound. "In times like that real management is necessary," he said.

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